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PATENT 450100-02715

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**Applicants** 

Makoto YAMADA et al.

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Serial No.

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Technology Center 2100

September 15, 2000

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Examiner

Greta L. Robinson

Art Unit

2177

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 11, 2003.

Dennis M. Smid, Reg. No. 34,930

(Name of Applicant, Assignee or Registered Representative)

Signature

December 11, 2003

Date of Signature

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) AND CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.56, applicants are filing this Information Disclosure Statement and the accompanying form PTO-1449 along

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with copies of the references therein identified. Such references have come to the attention of applicants by being cited in a Search Report issued in the corresponding European application on November 10, 2003, a copy of which is enclosed. So far as applicants are aware, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the final Office Action or Notice of Allowance.

As is apparent in said Search Report, applicants' undersigned attorney hereby certifies pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e) that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the documents identified herein constitute prior art to the present application.

Please charge any fees incurred by the filing of this document and not paid herewith or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP Attorneys for Applicants

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